



# GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD

## Connectivity Working Group

### Economic Recovery Advisory Board *Connectivity Working Group*

#### **Working Group Charge:**

This workgroup will be established from volunteer members, subject matter experts and relevant business, education and community leaders. All groups will ensure a promotion of internet and broadband connectivity throughout the state and will include recommendations to overcome barriers to increasing broadband availability in unserved and materially underserved locations across the State of Iowa.

#### **Areas of Focus:**

The Connectivity Committee will focus on establishing, maintaining, and growing internet connectivity within unserved and materially underserved communities. Internet connectivity touches every part of society and lack of broadband availability and adoption has been shown to have both a negative economic and social impact. Achieving the goals of universal access must begin with programs that bring internet access to the most difficult to serve locations in rural Iowa. The lack of broadband directly impacts the healthcare, welfare and education of rural Iowans. The group will identify strategies and actions to address socioeconomic and geographic issues that prevent universal access including both access and adoption initiatives. To maintain these areas of focus central tenets have been developed to build a foundation for long term internet connectivity. To that end the Connectivity Work Group believes that Private sector players are needed and preferred to a pure Public system. The Public sector will serve to ensure adequate coverage, ideal speed, along with oversight and architecture, throughout the state.

#### **Measures of Success:**

Measures of success will include three primary indicators: (1) that broadband access meeting minimum standards for speed and quality is available for every Iowan, (2) that broadband adoption, defined as the rates of subscription among Iowans with access to broadband, materially increases, and (3) that more Iowans have the digital skills necessary to participate in telework, telehealth, and distance learning opportunities made available in the 21st century digital economy. Increasing broadband access throughout the state will have a positive impact on rural economies and make it possible to train and retain skilled labor in every industry, not just telecommunications. Increased access to healthcare in rural settings through telehealth will directly impact the health and wealth of rural residents. Increased access to distance learning will ensure educational outcomes can be achieved regardless of location and the availability of in-person learning opportunities.

#### **Tactics:**

Policy proposals to address unserved and material underserved areas of Iowa may take a variety of forms with consideration for access, adoption, and digital skills of Iowans. Accordingly, the working group is encouraged to evaluate a range of tactics to meet the state's measures of success including carrier incentive programs, consumer subsidies, marketing/awareness campaigns, digital literacy



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training, community partnerships, and other tactics to drive success. Technology is still advancing in the space and developments should be careful not to over invest in what could be very outdated technology soon. There is no one solution and to that end a patchwork of private sectors companies and solutions will be necessary. It is also key that investment not just be made in infrastructure to provide connectivity, but also investment be made in the human resources to support long term connectivity.

### Working Group Leadership:

Chair Dan Houston, Principal

State Agency Director, Annette Dunn, State of Iowa Chief Information Officer

### Membership of the Working Group:

Member	
Dave Tilly, DOE	Deputy Director, Department of Education
Rob Christensen	CIO, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Paula Motsinger (DHS)	Iowa Medicaid
Scott Marler	Director, Department of Transportation
Dave Duncan	Iowa Communication Alliance
Taylor Teepell	CenturyLink
Ray Warner	Aureon
Dave Wisniewski	Vermeer
Doug Boone	Premier Communications
DT Magee	Norwalk Community Schools
Dr. Pam Jacobs	Iowa Dept. of Education
Dr. Hongwei Zhang	Iowa State University
Mara Strickler	Iowa Library Association
Chuck Soderberg	Iowa Association of Electrical Cooperatives
Alan Kemp	Iowa League of Cities
Laura Smith	UnityPoint
Ryan Schaap	Wells Enterprise
Joel Rohne	Iowa State Association of Counties



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Dr. Cindy Yelick	Great Prairie AEA
Kathy Kay	CIO, Principal
Scott Naumann	2nd Ward Alderman, Bettendorf
Bill Anderson	Cherokee Area Economic Development

### **Additional Information:**

